

has, frankly, jeopardized the economic future of families across the country.

The President may have passed some big tax cuts for the people who need it least, the very well off. But he has not been very compassionate to future generations who will be paying for the increased debt for generations. I compliment the Senator from North Dakota for the amazing budget he put together. It is the best budget document I have ever seen since I have been in the Senate.

The Democratic budget provides some measure of sanity and order to our budget priorities and, hopefully, will put our country back on more solid economic footing. Senator CONRAD did an amazing job in crafting a budget resolution that gets us started on the road to recovery from these misguided policies.

One of the most important things about Senator CONRAD's budget is that by restraining spending and making the right choices on long-term tax cuts, it provides room for important middle tax cuts to ease the middle-class squeeze, such as the tax cuts provided in Senator BAUCUS's amendment. These tax cuts are not a fix for what ails our economy in the long term, but they will indeed help middle-class families make ends meet.

Senator BAUCUS's amendment is broad-based tax relief targeted to the middle class, plain and simple. Everybody benefits, but the middle class gets most of the spoils. That is the way we ought to provide tax relief in this country—not providing more and more tax breaks to the top one-tenth of 1 percent, whose incomes have shot up into the stratosphere. Tax cuts for those who need them, not for those who would not notice them. That is our watchword, while the other side continues to believe in trickle down, but not even trickle down from the middle class to the poor but from those higher regions of wealth.

If we look at the tax cuts that passed in 2001, we know which ones should be made permanent and which ones should not. The \$1,000-per-child tax credit, marriage penalty relief, and the 10-percent bracket are all sensible tax cuts that can be made permanent with the surpluses provided for in the Conrad budget.

The Baucus amendment does some other sensible things as well. Across the country, parents are struggling to manage the crunch of work and family. According to a report issued by the Joint Economic Committee, full-time childcare costs average about \$7,300 per year in the United States. That is almost 20 percent of the median income of families with young children. The Baucus amendment will permanently extend the tax credit for childcare expenses to provide essential benefits to working families.

Senator BAUCUS's amendment also includes provisions to offset the impact of rising local property taxes. I hear about that from my constituents every

week. The amendment will make permanent the important military tax benefits passed both by the House and the Senate last December. These benefits are particularly targeted toward service men and women and their families. Given the multiple rotations many of them have endured, these tax provisions are supported by all, and they are the least we can do.

I know what the other side will say: "Democrats are for tax increases." My friends, telling people who are making a million dollars a year or more that they should continue to get a tax cut is what is wrong, not saying they should begin to pay their fair share. I have news for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Their old arguments are not going to work because the middle class has seen promise after promise from this administration, and then they have seen the vast majority of the tax cuts go to the very top of the income scale.

I will repeat it again: The average middle-class person has paid more of an increase in gasoline than their entire Bush tax cut, while this administration twiddles its thumbs about the energy crisis and continues to tell those at the top of the economic ladder that they get the vast majority of the benefits, even though they don't need it.

So I hope we will support the Conrad budget. It is a good, fine, and well-thought-out one. I hope we will support the Baucus tax cuts, which are targeted at the middle class. I hope we will support a budget such as the one proposed on our side, which is smart and helps the middle class.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

MR. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be given an additional 5 minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MR. COBURN. Mr. President, how much time does the Senator from Utah have?

MR. HATCH. Mr. President, I have 15 minutes, and I have asked for an additional 5.

MR. COBURN. According to the agreement we had, that would put us until 7:25 when Senator BROWN would be eligible to speak; is that right?

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma would start at 6:55 and have until 7:25.

MR. COBURN. I thank the chair.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

MR. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to express my opposition to and disapproval with the fiscal year 2009 budget resolution before us today.

Interestingly enough, I listened to the Senator from New York talk about how the rich are getting away with things. Well, the upper 1 percent of all taxpayers paid 39 percent of all income taxes the last time I heard. The upper 5 percent paid 60 percent of the total

income tax in this country. The upper 50 percent pay 97 percent of all the total income tax in this country. The bottom 50 percent generally pay almost nothing, and a good percentage of them get money from the Federal Government. So what is he talking about?

I think it was Yogi Berra who once said, "This is like *deja vu* all over again." I am sure he was not talking about the Federal budget when he uttered these oft-quoted words, but he might as well have been. As I look at the budget resolution before us today, and as I listen to the arguments on both sides of the aisle, it seems to me that we could be talking about last year's budget resolution. The numbers are somewhat larger, but the arguments are about the same.

Now this might not be so bad if the budget resolution were a good one. No, you would not hear me complaining about a repeat of a budget that strengthened our economy, addressed our near-term problems, and prepared this country for the longer-term budget challenges of the future. Unfortunately, this is not the case. In fact, quite the opposite is true.

Once we were through with that resolution last year, it didn't even resemble what the budget resolution was calling for. In fact, I have been here for 31 years, and not one day has the conservative point of view been dominant in the Senate. The liberal point of view, with almost all liberal Democrats and a few liberal Republicans, has held sway. That is where all the spending is coming from.

Instead, we are, once again, talking about a budget that raises taxes by an unprecedented amount, which will do untold harm to our economy, exacerbates our near-term problems by not holding spending in check, and totally ignores the longer-term mandatory program challenges of the future.

Much has already been said on this floor about the budget resolution and its failings. I could add a great deal more, but instead I choose to focus my remarks on three premises on which this budget is based. Three premises that, unfortunately, are false. And every child in Sunday school knows that false premises are like the house whose foundation is built upon sand. We all know that a house built upon sand, or a budget built upon false premises, cannot stand.

The first faulty premise underlying this budget resolution is that it would not raise taxes on Americans. I know that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have said and will continue to say that this budget does not raise one cent in taxes. Technically speaking, this is true. However, while the document before us may contain no actual tax increase language, it does nothing to prevent the largest tax increase ever, which is set to occur at the end of 2010 if the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts are allowed to expire as scheduled.

The American people need to ask a simple question of this budget. What is